Growth Rate in Pharma Sector

3967. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Pharma growth rate in 2001 was the lowest in a Decade;

(b) if so, whether the total retail sales increased by 9.7 percent to Rs. 15534 crore in 2001, and the growth from calendar year 1992 onwards has always been in excess of 10 percent;

(c) if so, what are the main reasons for the same; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to improve the Pharma growth in the year 2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) to (d) As per the data published by ORG-MARG in its annual reports, the pharma market growth was 9.70% with a total of Rs. 15534 crore in 2001. The growth rate for the year 1992 to 2001 as reported by ORG-MARG are as given below :

1992	18.70%
1993	11.50%
1994	15.70%
1995	11.60%
1996	14.70%
1997	13.30%
1998	18.60%
1999	8.40%
2000	10.50%
2001	9.70%

During the year 1999 the growth rate was 8.40% while it increased to 10.50% in 2000. In 2001, it again fell to 9.70%.

Government have recently announced the 'Pharmaceutical Policy-2002'. The main objectives of this policy are :—

(a) Ensuring abundant availability at reasonable prices within the country of good quality essential pharmaceuticals of mass consumption.

(b) Strenghening the indigenous capability for cost effective quality production and exports of pharmaceuticals by reducing barriers to trade in the pharmaceutical sector.

(c) Strengthening the system of quality control over drug and pharmaceutical production and distribution to make quality an essential attribute of the Indian pharmaceutical industry and promoting rational use of pharmaceuticals.

(d) Encouraging R&D in the pharmaceutical sector in a manner compatible with the country's needs and with particular focus on diseases endemic or relevant to India by creating an environment conducive to channelising a higher level of investment into R&D in pharmaceuticals in India.

(e) Creating an incentive framework for the pharmaceutical industry which promotes new investment into pharmaceutical industry and encourages the introduction of new technologies and new drugs.

Financial performance of Fertilizer Units

3968. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Group of Ministers has recommended closure of a large number of fertilizers units in the country;

(b) if so, the details of these units, the financial performance of each of them during the last three years and the number of workers employed by each of them; and

(c) whether there have been any arrears of wages and other statutory dues to the employees, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) A Group of Ministers (GOM) has been set up in June, 2001 to examine the rehabilitation/ restructuring proposals of the four sick Fertilizer Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC), Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCI),. Projects & Development India Ltd. (PDIL) and Pyrites, Phosphates and Chemicals Ltd. (PPCL). The recommendations are to be